

## TEDDY ROOSEVELT MAKES INTERESTING SPEECH AT CONSERVATION CONGRESS

ST. PAUL, Minn., Sept. 7.—The following is the address of ex-President Roosevelt as delivered at the Conservation congress yesterday:

"America's reputation for efficiency stands deservedly high throughout the world. We are efficient probably to the full limit that any nation can attain by the methods hitherto used. There is great reason to be proud of our achievements, and yet no reason to believe that we cannot excel our past. Through a practically unrestrained individualism, we have reached a pitch of literally unexampled material prosperity; although the distribution of this prosperity leaves much to be desired from the standpoint of justice and fair dealing. But we have not allowed the individual a free hand, which was in the main right; we have also allowed great corporations to act as though they were individuals, and to exercise the rights of individuals, in addition to using the vast combined power of high organization and enormous wealth for their own advantage. This development of corporate action, it is true, is doubtless in large part responsible for the gigantic development of our natural resources, but it is not less responsible for waste, destruction and monopoly on an equally gigantic scale.

The method of reckless and uncontrolled private use and waste has done for us all the good it ever can, and it is time to put an end to it before it does all the evil it may. We have passed the time when heedless waste and destruction, and arrogant monopoly are any longer permissible. Henceforth we must seek national efficiency by a new and better way, by the way of the orderly development and use, coupled with the preservation, of our national resources, by making the most of what we have for the benefit of all of us, instead of leaving the sources of material prosperity open to indiscriminate exploitation. These are some of the reasons why it is wise that we should abandon the old point of view, and why conservation has become a patriotic duty.

### The National Forests.

"The people of the United States believe in the complete and rounded development of inland waterways for all the useful purposes they can be made to serve. They believe also in forest protection and forest extension. The fight for our national forests in the West has been won. After a campaign in which the women of Minnesota did work which should secure to them the perpetual gratitude of their state, Minnesota won her national forest, and will keep it; but the fight to create the Southern Appalachian and White Mountain forests in the East is not yet over. The bill has passed the house, and will come before the senate for a vote next February. The people of the United States, regardless of party or section, should stand solidly behind it, and see that their representatives do likewise.

"If any proof were needed that forest protection is a national duty, the recent destruction of forests in the West by fire would supply it. Even with the aid of the army to that of the forest service the loss has been severe. Without either it would have been vastly greater."

"But while we of the United States are anxious, as I believe we are able, to be of assistance to others, there are problems of our own which we must not overlook. One of the most important conservation questions of the moment relates to the control of water power monopoly in the public interest. There is apparent to the judicious observer a distinct tendency on the part of our opponents to cloud the issue by raising the question of state as against federal jurisdiction. We are ready to meet that issue if it is force upon us. But there is no hope for the plain people in such conflicts of jurisdictions. The essential question is not one of hair-splitting legal technicalities. It is simply this: Who can best regulate the special interests for the public good? Most of the predatory corporations are inter-state or have inter-state affiliations. Therefore they are largely out of reach of effective state control, and fall of necessity within the federal jurisdiction. One of the prime objects of those among them that are grasp-

ing and greedy is to avoid any effective control either by state or by nation; and they advocate at this time state control simply because they believe it to be the least effective. In the great fight of the people to drive the special interests from the dominion of our government, the nation is stronger and its jurisdiction is more effective than that of any state. The most effective weapon against these great corporations, most of which are financed and owned on the Atlantic coast, will be the federal laws and the federal executive. That is why I strongly oppose the demand to turn these matters over to the states. It is fundamentally a demand against the interests of the plain people, of the people of small means, against the interests of our children and our children's children; and it is primarily in the interest of the great corporations which desire to escape all government control.

"One of the difficulties in putting into practice the conservation idea is that the field to which it applies is constantly growing in the public mind. It has been no slight task to bring before 100,000,000 people a great conception like that of conservation, and convince them that it is right. This much we have accomplished. But there remains much to be cleared up, and many misunderstandings to be removed. These misunderstandings are due in part at least to direct misrepresentation by the men to whose interest it is that conservation should not prosper. For example, we find it constantly said by men who should know better, that temporary withdrawals, such as the withdrawal of coal lands, will permanently check development. Yet the fact is that these withdrawals have no purpose except to prevent the coal lands from passing into private ownership until congress can pass laws to open them to development under conditions just alike to the public and to the men who will do the developing. If there is delay, the responsibility for it rests, not on the men who made the withdrawals to protect the public interest, but on those who prevent congress from passing wise legislation, and so putting an end to the need for withdrawals.

"Abuses committed in the name of a just cause are familiar to us all. Many unwise things are done and many unwise measures are advocated in the name of conservation, either through ignorance, or by those whose interest lies not in promoting the movement, but in retarding it. For example, to stop water power development by needless refusal to issue permits for water power or private irrigation works on the public lands inevitably leads many men, friendly to conservation and believers in its general principles, to assume that its practical application is necessarily a check upon progress. Nothing could be more mistaken. The idea, widely circulated of late, that conservation means locking up the natural resources for the exclusive use of later generations, is wholly mistaken. Our purpose is to make full use of these resources, but to consider our sons and daughters as well as ourselves; just as a farmer uses his farm in ways to preserve its future usefulness. Conservation is the road to national efficiency, and it stands for ample and wise development.

"But in spite of these difficulties, most of which are doubtless inevitable in any movement of this kind, conservation has made marvelous progress. I have been astounded and delighted on my return from abroad at the progress made while I was away. We have a right to congratulate ourselves on this marvelous progress; but there is no reason for believing that the fight is won. In the beginning the special interests, who are our chief opponents in the conservation fight, paid little heed to the movement, because they neither understood it, nor saw that if it won they must lose. But with the progress of conservation in the minds of our people, the fight is getting sharper. The nearer we approach to victory, the bitterer the opposition that we must meet, and the greater the need for caution and watchfulness."

"The homely virtues are the lasting virtues, and the road which leads to them is the road to genuine and lasting success. "What this country needs is what (Continued on Page Four.)



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